

Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council meeting
Held on Tuesday 7th February 2006 at
The Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre
Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7.30pm

Present at meeting: Parish Councillors: C Martin, B Avery, C Hatton, G Roper, S Cole, C Pill and B Lester (Chair) Also Present: H Shayler (Clerk), , L Cole and plus one resident. For part of the meeting PC A Talbot and K Stratford.

1) Apologies for Absence none were received for this meeting

2) Co-option to fill Vacancies: No one present at this meeting

3) Minutes of the meeting 3rd January 2006 were signed as a true record

4) Police Matters:

A discussion was held relating to various ways in which the Police are currently liaising with other groups / organisations to improve the estate by hitting crime with correct structures in place. Liaison between groups such as CanAct and NAT along with reports back from the Street(Wardens and the Police Community Support Officers are all helping to allow the police to be better informed and therefore able to act more effectively on crime happening on the estate. The public meeting held last November had proven successful in identifying areas that the residents wanted to be tackled and it is intended for another such meeting in the near future (a date will be advertised in the Leys News).

K Stratford commented that with groups formally liaising with each other it allowed specific tasks to be implemented, monitored and hopefully resolve many issues on the estate and by bringing agency's together gives everyone a chance to speak.

B Avery commented that all of the these current meetings/discussions etc will be of great help for many people to have a way of passing information and receiving updates - However, the one main concern would be that if someone calls the police have they got the man power to respond. If no one turns up when a crime is reported then any good work done over many months would be lost very quickly. G Roper commented that he had been on the NAT since its start up and regularly reported back to the Parish Council and likewise was happy to take any issues from the Parish Council back to NAT everyone agreed that this liaison should continue. A comment was made that the same issues being discussed by the NAT also appeared to be being discussed separately via Area committee - it was G Roper and K Stratford should liaise with F Lepage at City Council to ensure all are working from the same agenda to ensure maximum effort is put working together.

Both Inspector Talbot and K Stratford were thanked for attending the meeting and for updating the Parish Council on current projects and procedures currently being worked on.

G Roper gave a report on the last NAT meeting: A meeting at the leisure centre had identified areas which may be used for places for local children to go - but nothing was formally agreed and many issues were still to be discussed before any final decisions were made. The article in the Oxford Mail which had said that the old tennis courts behind Evenlode Tower was a site to be used was not totally correct and likewise, many issues are still to be discussed before any final decisions are to be made.

10) Financial Matters:

Present at the meeting was Jennifer Travis from the Barn Youth Project to answer questions on the grant application that had been received - to avoid J Travis having to wait during the meeting it was agree that this element of discussion be brought forward.

During a short discussion the following information was received - the Youth Project is held 2 days per week Mondays 8yr-12yr 6.30pm - 8.30pm with 20-30 children on average attending and then on Wednesdays 13 yr + 7.30 - 9.30 with varying numbers in attendance, but with a

good response most weeks. The grant applied for was to update old equipment, the issue of security for any new equipment was raised and discussed. J Travis commented that if any member of the Parish Council would like to go along to a meeting they are more than welcome, but it would be appreciated if they could telephone first so that one of the Youth Project workers was expecting them.

The Chair thanked J Travis for attending the meeting and informed her that a final discussion and decision would be made later during the meeting when discussing other financial matters.

5) Matters Arising 1 Portfolio reports:

a) Twinning - it was commented that the Area committee had stated that enforcement of the litter /fly tipping laws would start to be enforced. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not move forward until action to show this had started but B Avery would continue to look into the way forward so that it can be actioned as and when the situation improves. The clerk was asked to place on the agenda for ongoing months to ensure the situation was monitored. A protocol to which City Works, Environmental Health and Legal Services agreed to work to was circulated for members from L Cole.

b) ORCC grant - the clerk reported that this grant was issued according to the size of the Parish Council and the Parish of Blackbird Leys was too large to apply.

6) Kassam Stadium - A letter had been received from the Secretary of J Angus giving apologies for not being able to attend this meeting due to it clashing with another meeting. It was hoped that he will be in attendance for the March meeting. The letter received also confirmed that action was being taken to for the land owners of relevant land along the stream to clear the said areas.

7) Aisle Barn - a report was circulated for the Parish Council members to read regarding the current and future position of the Aisle Barn.

8) Public Discussion

A resident of the estate was present and raised concerns over the general condition of Sawpit Road. L Cole explained the long and exasperating efforts that have been put into sorting out this situation but due to legal issues the problem is still on going - but it certainly has not been forgotten nor is it being ignored.

9) Planning Applications

No Objections were raised to the following applications:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/024991/ADV	Erection of Fascia Signs to front, side and Rear	Unit 1 Ox Trade Ctr Harrow Road. Topps Tiles
APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00141/FUL	Single Storey rear Conservatory	5 Grebe Close.

The Main objection raised to the following two applications were due to the health issue surrounding such masts - especially as there appears to be many different suppliers currently seeking permission to site these items of equipment around Blackbird Leys.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00142/T56	Proposed 11.5m high monopole with 3 integrated antenna together with ground based equipment cabin and ancillary development	Proposed telecommunications Mast opposite Kassam Stadium, Grenoble Road. FOR: Orange

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APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/02548/T56	: Erection of 12 metre monopole with antennae x3 and ancillary equipment cabin	Verge North of Sand ford Brake, Grenoble road FOR: Vodaphone

(the above application is actually a SODC and not City Council application, but objections have still been filed)

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00050/T56	Erection of 15m monopole with antennae x3 and dishes x2, equipment cabin	Proposed telecommunications Mast Land adjacent entrance to Oxford Retail Park FOR Vodaphone

The following applications were objected to for reasons shown:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00035/FUL	Change of use from house to 2 flats. Parking for 2 cars on frontage	189 Field Avenue

This was objected to due to it being a retrospective application which the Parish Council strongly disagree with.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/000102/FUL	Retention of roof over rear yard with roller shutter door and extractions flue to side	110 Blackbird Leys Road

An objection was raised to this application due to concerns over the roof being used for access to the flats therefore making them less secure. The question was also asked if the City Council had given permission for the flue to be moved as it is, and will be, connected to one of their properties.

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
06/00036/FUL	Proposal: Change of use from Class B8 (storage and Distribution) to builders merchants. Alterations to external storage, servicing and parking areas to provide 58 car parking spaces including 2 for disabled use and 6 for staff. Alterations to elevation to existing building including new entrance.	Oxford 40 Warehouse, 1 Bobby Fryer Close.

An objection was raised to the level of traffic being further increased in an area that suffers badly with congestion as it is at present.

Notice of approval had been received for:

Application from Oxfordshire County Council

Proposal: Erection of double garage for minibuses with cycle shelter alongside, external alterations to windows and attachment of canopies to front elevation, laying out of car park on existing area of tarmac, provision of new footpath to Cuddesdon Way, along with internal alterations all to create special needs school at Orchard Meadow School Wesley Close.

Notification of approval in Part had been received for:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/02135/ADV	Two illuminated fascia signs to front and rear facing Garsington Road	Unit 3 Oxford Trade Centre, Harrow Road

Notification that prior approval was required for

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS
05/02281/T56	Retention of 15m monopole and mobile equipment cabin for temporary period off Roman Way	Rear of Building 70 BMW Manufacturing UK Ltd, Garsington Road

10) Financial Matters

The following expenses were proposed by G Roper, 2nd by B Avery and carried with a unanimous vote a) Clerk Salary-£258.90 (b) AOL-£15.99 (c) Telephone Answering Service-£35.25 (d) Carphone Warehouse-£64.03 (e) Hire of Jack Argent Room - £10.00 (t) release of Grant for Church of the Holy Family-£1000.00 (g) Oxford City Council- Office Rent - £250.00 (h) Isis office Stationary-£36.38 (i) Postage-£29.49 CD British Telecom, office phone, - £35.75 The Barn Project Grant application- due to concerns raised over the security of the equipment it was proposed by G Roper that the amount of £460.00 be released for allowing the purchase of smaller items requested which may be followed by a second amount of £500 for the larger item subject to a visit by a parish councillor to ascertain its safety, 2nd by C Pill this was carried by an unanimous vote.

The grant received from Home Start Oxford was discussed - the clerk was asked to invite them to attend a meeting and inform them at the same time that we are unable to issue a grant for Salaries.

It was confirmed that should the Leys New wish to apply for a standard grant they were more than welcome to do so. The rejection of 'sponsorship' for £6000. was a different issue and the two issues should not be confused

11) Correspondence

Items circulated were noted

a) if anyone wished to respond to attached questionnaire they were asked to forward response to either the Chair or clerk to be filed.

Additional items discussed:

Oxford Association for the Blind had written requesting funds towards the launch of 'Phone Friends' B Avery proposed that a letter be sent offering £250. towards local publicity, 2nd by G Roper this was carried with a unanimous vote.

Victim Support - as a national organisation, this would not be supported by the Parish Council. Invite to reception at County Hall 15th March - B Avery and B Lester offered to attend as Parish Council representatives.

Information regarding Practices registering new NHS patents was circulated for information Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future - booklet available from the Clerk.

12) Any other Business

B Lester showed options for a 'Welcome to Blackbird Leys Sign' an option was chosen and would be ordered.

13) Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – March 7th 2006

It was agreed that the April Meeting would be preceded with the Annual Parish Meeting and due to the local elections, including Parish Council elections, being held early May that the Parish Council would hold the May meeting on the second Tuesday of the month - Tuesday 9th May.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.00pm.